



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

NOTICE OF DECISION

November 14, 2007

Rosebud East Fishing Access Boat Ramp Improvement Project

TO: Environmental Quality Council
Director's Office, Dept. of Environmental Quality
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks*

Director's Office	Lands Section
Parks Division	Design & Construction
Fisheries Division	Legal Unit
Wildlife Division	Regional Supervisors

Mike Volesky, Governor's Office *
Sarah Elliott, Press Agent, Governor's Office*
Maureen Theisen, Governor's Office*
Montana Historical Society, State Preservation Office
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council
Montana Wildlife Federation
Montana State Library*
George Ochenski*
Montana Environmental Information Center
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation*
FWP Commissioner Shane Colton*
Montana Parks Association (land acquisition projects)
Bob Raney (Parks EA's only)
DNRC Area Manager, Eastern Land Office
Rosebud County Commissioners
Other Local Interested People or Groups
* (Sent electronically)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks had proposed to remove a small sandbar in the Yellowstone River that currently impedes use of the boat ramp at Rosebud East Fishing Access Site (FAS).

PUBLIC PROCESS AND COMMENT

The Rosebud East Fishing Access Site Boat Ramp Improvement Project EA was posted on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Web site <http://fwp.mt.gov/default.html> and provided for Public comment from September 18 - October 18, 2006. Comments from 2 individuals were received via Email at the FWP Region 7 Office in opposition to the

project and 4 written comments were received favoring the project as proposed. In addition, phone calls have been received encouraging FWP to proceed with the project as proposed.

The concerns raised in the opposing comments led FWP to commission a hydrological study. The study concluded the dredging could be effective. However, the life of the project would be impossible to predict due to the variability of river flows from year to year.

Owing to the importance of having a boat launch site in the vicinity of Forsyth, downstream of the Cartersville diversion dam, and the fact that another suitable site for development doesn't exist upstream of the next FAS, FWP has decided to proceed with a scaled down version of the original proposal and do a partial removal of the sandbar.

DECISION

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment (EA) and the applicable laws, regulations and policies, I have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the natural or human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

It is my decision to implement the proposed modified action, and to proceed with this action. By notification of this Decision Notice, the draft EA is hereby made the final EA with the above modification (partial removal of sandbar rather than complete removal.) This will be attempted on an experimental basis at minimal cost. The final EA may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks office in Miles City and also at the following website: http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices/notice_1191.aspx

This project is subject to appeal, which must be submitted to the FWP Director in writing, and postmarked within 30 days of the date on this decision notice. The appeal must specifically describe the basis for the appeal, explain how the appellant has previously commented to the department or participated in the decision-making process, and lay out how FWP might address the concerns in the appeal. If you have questions regarding this decision notice, please address them to me at bchristensen@mt.gov or call me at 234-0913.



Bryce Christensen
Regional Supervisor